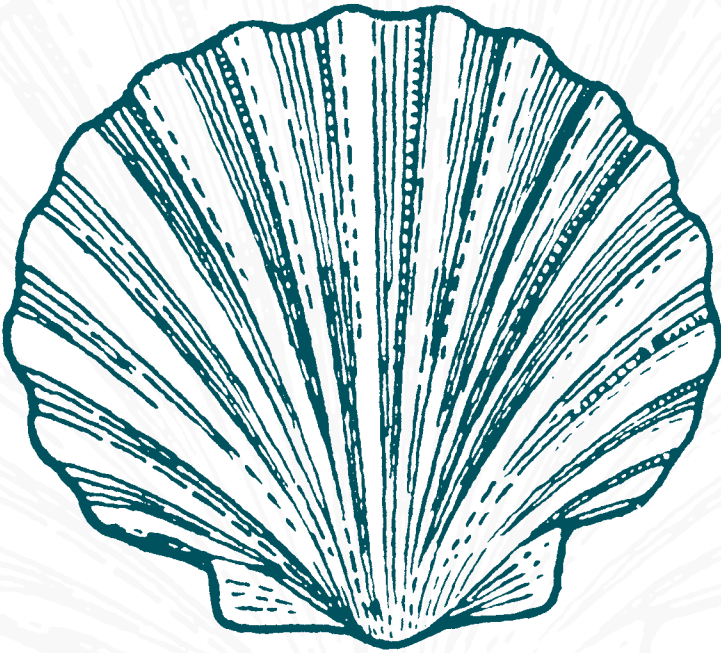
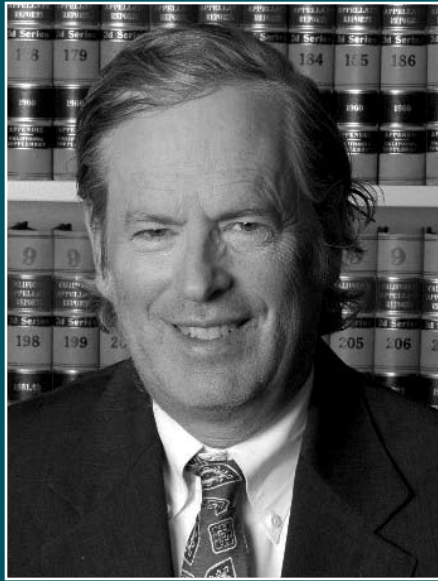


THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA



2008
Loren Miller
Legal Services
Award



Richard A. Rothschild

“Dick is one of the very best appellate lawyers I have seen, out of the thousand or more who argued before our court during my tenure. With him poor people in California have had appellate advocacy of the highest caliber, the kind otherwise available only to the wealthiest clients and the largest corporations and institutions. He did not always win when appearing in the court on which I served—but he always deserved to win if judged by the quality of his lawyering”

—The Honorable Earl Johnson, Jr. (RET.)

Richard A. Rothschild has devoted virtually his entire career to legal services work. After a clerkship with California Supreme Court Justice Stanley Mosk, Mr. Rothschild joined the Western Center on Law and Poverty in 1976 as a staff attorney and became Director of Litigation in 1984.

Mr. Rothschild is considered one of California's pre-eminent anti-poverty litigators and the premier appellate lawyer serving legal services clients. He has been involved—usually as lead or co-counsel—in much of the landmark litigation enforcing the rights of low-income Californians over the past three decades. The list of his published appellate decisions alone is without parallel in the legal services community. There are countless additional cases in which he was involved that never made it to the appellate level, those in which he provided advice and counsel and brief-writing assistance and numerous amicus briefs he has authored.

In addition, he has trained and mentored hundreds of legal services, pro bono and public interest attorneys, whose victories for the poor also owe much to Mr. Rothschild. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in litigating on behalf of low-income Californians and has inspired others to try to do the same. For all this and more, he was referred to in a 2002 *Daily Journal* article as the “Dean of Public Interest Law” in California.

Appeals Mr. Rothschild has briefed and argued include:

- *Alford v. County of San Diego*, 151 Cal.App.4th 16 (2007) (county may not deny health care to working poor people who can afford to pay for some but not all of their treatment)
- *Conlan v. Shewry*, 131 Cal.App.4th 1354 (2005); *Conlan v. Bonta*, 102 Cal.App.4th 745 (2002) (State health department must assure that Medi-Cal beneficiaries who pay for their care out of pocket are promptly reimbursed)
- *Cruz v. Superior Court*, 120 Cal.App.4th 175 (2004) (court must schedule hearing before denying applications for waivers of court fees based on inability to pay)
- *Hunt v. Superior Court*, 21 Cal.4th 984 (1999) (counties must provide health care to persons who cannot afford to pay)
- *Cisneros v. U.D. Registry, Inc.*, 39 Cal.App.4th 548 (1995) (outlawing certain practices of State's largest tenant screening agency)
- *Gardner v. County of Los Angeles*, 34 Cal.App.4th 200 (1995) (county may not reduce its General Assistance grant by including the cost of health care as part of its grant. Later multi-million dollar retroactive benefits award affirmed on appeal in unpublished opinion.)
- *Nelson v. Board of Supervisors*, 190 Cal.App. 3d 25 (1987): Homeless persons may not be denied subsistence general relief benefits on the ground that they lack residential address.
- *Stocks v. City of Irvine*, 114 Cal.App.3d 520 (1981) (restrictive federal standing doctrines do not preclude suit against city's exclusionary land use practices by nonresidents who would like to live in the city)

Mr. Rothschild has helped pioneer implementation of California's private attorney general statute, bringing in millions of dollars to the Western Center and other legal services programs in court-awarded attorneys' fees. In *Serrano v. Unruh*, 32 Cal.3d 621 (1982), he convinced the Supreme Court that legal services programs representing plaintiffs in public interest cases are entitled to fees equal to those earned by attorneys in private practice.

Mr. Rothschild is long-time Chair of the Amicus Briefs Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, which honored him in 2007 with the Patricia D. Phillips Outstanding Committee Service Award. Mr. Rothschild was elected in 2004 to the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers. In 2006, he received the Legal Aid Association of California Award of Merit and in 2007 and 2008, he was listed as one of the Southern California Super Lawyers in the area of Civil Rights.

The Loren Miller Legal Services Award was created in 1977 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the State Bar of California. The award is given annually and honors an attorney who has demonstrated long-term commitment to legal services and who has personally done significant work in extending legal services to the poor.



*The State Bar
of California*

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